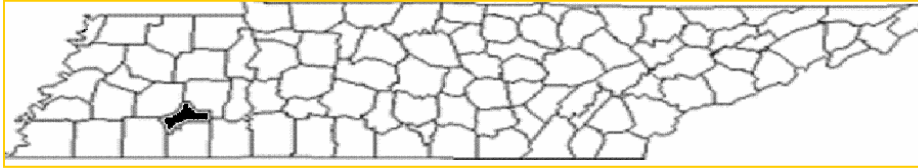


The Status of Women in Chester County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN CHESTER COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

INSIDE

Overview	1
County Summary	2
Overall County Rankings	3
About the Council and this Report	4

INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	45.60	42
Women's Annual Earnings	\$21,615	30
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	68.9%	78
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	43.6%	29
Female Unemployment Rate	7.5%	76
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	32.0%	15
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	35.50	19
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	16.3%	74
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	10.8%	38
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	67.8%	57
Female High School Dropout Rate	3.6%	13
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	94.3%	21
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	14.7%	36
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	8.9%	40
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	18.0	5

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Chester County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

CHESTER

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation, female unemployment, and percentages of women in professional or managerial occupations.

- ◇ Chester County women earn a median of \$21,615 annually—more than \$9,000 less than the median earnings for men in the county which is \$31,378.
- ◇ Women in Chester County only earn 68.9% of the wages of their male counterparts, a wage gap ranking 78th out of the 95 counties.
- ◇ Women make up 46% of the work force in Chester County, but the female unemployment rate is 7.5% compared to an overall county unemployment rate of 4.3%.
- ◇ Chester County is in the top 20 counties for women in managerial or professional occupations, with 32 percent of employed females engaged in these positions.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ Chester County is ranked thirteenth in female high school dropout rate at 3.6%. However, only 67.8% of women in the county have a high school diploma.
- ◇ Only 10.8% of women in Chester County have a four-year college degree or better; 11.2% of the county population have attained a similar level, indicating that greater numbers of men than women are college graduates.
- ◇ Over 94 percent of women in Chester County have some kind of health insurance coverage.
- ◇ Within Chester County, 14.7 percent of women earn below poverty level wages.
- ◇ Though 11.1% of families in Chester County live in poverty, the percentage rises to 26.8% when only female-householder families with no husband present are considered.
- ◇ Chester County women own 16.3% of the businesses in the county, and women-owned businesses account for 16.2% of income and receipts from private firms in the county.
- ◇ Of eligible county voters 52.8% are women. About 20 percent of elected county officials are women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

CHESTER

		Chester County	Rank of Chester County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$21,615	30	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	68.9%	78	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Partici- pation Rate	43.6%	29	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	7.5%	76	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Fe- males in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	32.0%	15	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	16.3%	74	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	10.8%	38	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	67.8%	57	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	3.6%	13	Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Cover- age	94.3%	21	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	14.7%	36	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	8.9%	40	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	18.0	5	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Chester County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

Co-Authors: Jennifer Rawls, Executive Director, Julia Reynolds, Research Analyst, and Lee Eubanks, Intern

Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties